

Patron Behavior Policy

Library Mission: The mission of the Bastrop Public Library is to provide free and unrestricted access to informational, educational, cultural, and recreational library materials and services in a clean, comfortable, secure environment for people of all ages.

To enable the library to fulfill its mission, library patrons are asked to respect and follow the policies listed below. Patrons who violate the Behavior Policy will receive notice they are in violation and may be asked to leave the library.

Disruptive behavior is generally defined as any patron behavior that interferes with the normal operation of the library or which unreasonably interferes with another patron's ability to use and enjoy the library. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The following list of disruptive behaviors is used for illustrative purposes only, and is not comprehensive:

- Illegal acts
- Sexual harassment or misconduct
- Stealing or vandalizing library property
- Loitering
- Sleeping in a manner that is disruptive or disturbs patrons or staff
- Running, shouting, loud talking, pushing, threatening, or harassing behavior
- Playing audio equipment loud enough to disturb others
- Loud cell phone ringing and/or conversations
- Possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Smoking or use of any tobacco product (including electric cigarettes) on Library property
- Use of skateboards, roller blades/skates, and scooters on library property
- Soliciting of any kind and/or asking for signatures on petitions
- Blocking of aisles or entrances
- Possession of weapons, other than open carry firearms
- Monopolizing library resources or staff time
- Eating or drinking within the library unless at authorized library events
- Bathing, shaving, washing clothes, or otherwise misusing bathrooms
- Discourtesy to other library patrons or the Library staff
- Adults sitting in either the children or teen's rooms without assisting their children or selecting material
- Truancy (Please refer to Bastrop, Texas, municipal code Section 8.8.03)
- Carrying into the library bedrolls, bed blankets, large bags, large boxes, sleeping bags, or sports equipment
- Using profanity or discussing subjects that are inappropriate in the presence of juveniles

While visiting the library, patrons are required to:

- Respect other library users and their privacy at all times
- Wear appropriate attire, including shoes and shirts (no wet clothes or bathing suits)
- Not present an odor nuisance

- Not bring animals into the library, other than service animals-- nor leave animals outside unattended
- Ask permission to use library telephones. Library telephones are for library business. Allowed calls are limited to patron emergencies and/or requests for transportation.
- Use library furniture, materials, equipment, and facilities for their intended purposes
- Take care of their own possessions as the library will not be responsible for patrons' items
- Follow the Library's policies

Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers* responsibilities:

- Persons 17 years old or younger are defined as "children" for the purposes of this policy.
- Parents or legal guardians, whether present in the library or not, are responsible for their children's behavior at all times.
- Parents or legal guardians are responsible for any damages to library property caused, in whole or in part, by their children, regardless of the children's age.
- Children under the age of eight years **must** be accompanied by a parent, a legal guardian, or a caregiver* at all times.
- Parents, legal guardians, or caregivers* are responsible for maintaining control over their children's behavior in the library at all times.
- Parents, legal guardians, or caregivers* accompanying children (eight years or younger) must stay within a reasonable distance (within eyesight) of their children at all times.

HEB Young Adult Room Policy

- The HEB Young Adult Room is a space specifically designed for teens to gather and socialize in the library. In an effort to provide a safe and comfortable environment, only students 13 through 17 years of age may occupy this room. Others may enter the room to choose library materials, but they may not remain in the room for an extended period of time.
- Persons occupying the HEB Young Adult Room may be asked to show a school or state issued ID to remain in the space for an extended time.

Teen Program Policy

- Participation in Teen Programs is limited to persons between the age of 13 through 17 years of age.
- Persons 18 years of age may participate until they graduate from high school and will not be authorized to participate in Teen Programs upon reaching the age of 19, regardless of high school status.
- Students participating in teen activities may be asked to show a school or state issued ID before entering the room.

*(If a parent designates a "Caregiver" to accompany a child eight years or younger to the library in the parent's absence, the Caregiver must be at least 14 years of age and must demonstrate maturity and competence to care for and control the children left in their care while in the library.)

***The library retains the right to search all personal bags or backpacks.

*****Patron library privileges may be limited at the discretion of the Library Director.**

Revised: 08/31/15 Library Board Approved 09/14/15 Bastrop City Council Approved